



May 19, 2004

Ms. Pamela B. Katz
Chairman
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Docket No. 272: The Connecticut Light and Power Company and The United Illuminating Company Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction of a new 345-kV electric transmission line and associated facilities between the Scovill Rock Switching Station in Middletown and the Norwalk Substation in Norwalk, including the reconstruction of portions of existing 115-kV and 345-kV electric transmission lines, the construction of Beseck Switching Station in Wallingford, East Devon Substation in Milford, and Singer Substation in Bridgeport, modifications at Scovill Rock Switching Station and Norwalk Substation, and the reconfiguration of certain interconnections

Dear Ms. Katz:

During the April hearings in this docket, the Council requested that The Connecticut Light and Power Company and The United Illuminating Company (collectively, “the Companies”) provide additional information as to whether it would be physically possible to construct an overhead line along Route 15 in New Haven County (the Wilbur Cross Parkway from point B to C) where constraints or potential impacts led the Companies to conclude that it would not be practical to construct the proposed Middletown-Norwalk Transmission Project (April 22, 2004 Hearing Transcript at p.96). In response to this request, enclosed are an original and 20 copies of the “Middletown-Norwalk 345-kV Transmission Project Supplemental Review of Crossing the West Rock Tunnel and Rock Cut by Amity Shopping Center”.



**Connecticut
Light & Power**

The Northeast Utilities System



The United Illuminating Company

The Companies are providing electronic copies of the filing, excluding Figures 2 and 5 due to their size, to the electronic service list.

Sincerely,



Anne Bartosewicz
Project Director
The Connecticut Light & Power Company



John Prete
Project Director
The United Illuminating Company

cc: Service List



**Connecticut
Light & Power**

The Northeast Utilities System



The United Illuminating Company

SERVICE LIST

Docket: 272

Ms. Pamela B. Katz
Chairman
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Anthony M. Fitzgerald, Esq.
Brian T. Henebry, Esq.
Carmody & Torrance, LLP
50 Leavenworth Street
P. O. Box 1110
Waterbury, CT 06721-1110

Linda L. Randell, Esq.
Bruce L. McDermott, Esq.
Wiggin and Dana, LLP
One Century Tower
New Haven, CT 06508-1832

The Honorable Robert W. Megna
State Representative – 97th District
40 Foxon Hill Rd. #54
New Haven, CT 06513

The Honorable Al Adinolfi
State Representative – 103rd District
235 Sorghum Mill Dr.
Cheshire, CT 06410

Eric Knapp, Esq.
Branse & Willis, LLC
41-C New London Turnpike
Glen Lochen East
Glastonbury, CT 06033-2038

Julie Donaldson Kohler, Esq.
Hurwitz, Sagarin & Slossberg LLC
147 North Broad St.
Milford, CT 06460

Peter G. Boucher, Esq.
Halloran & Sage, LLP
225 Asylum Street
Hartford, CT 06103

Janice M. Small, Esq.
Town Attorney
Wallingford Town Hall
45 South Main Street
Wallingford, CT 06492

Ms. MaryAnn Boord
First Selectwoman
Durham Town Hall
30 Townhouse Rd.
Durham, CT 06422

Mr. Louis S. Ciccarello
Corporation Counsel
P. O. Box 798
Norwalk, CT 06856-0798

Town of Westport
c/o Ira W. Bloom, Esq.
27 Imperial Ave.
Westport, CT 06880

The Honorable Mary G. Fritz
State Representative – 90th District
43 Grove St.
Yalesville, CT 06492

David A. Ball, Esq.
Cohen & Wolf, P.C.
1115 Broad Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Deborah L. Moore, Esq.
Legal Department
Meriden City Hall
142 East Main St.
Meriden, CT 06450

Atty. Michael C. Wertheimer
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

The Honorable Raymond Kalinowski
State Representative – 100th District
P.O. Box 391
Durham, CT 06422

Ms. Melanie J. Howlett
Associate City Attorney
Office of the City Attorney
999 Broad Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Ms. Trish Bradley, President
Mr. Ed Schwartz, Treasurer
Communities for Responsible Energy, Phase II
45 Ironwood Lane
Durham, CT 06422

Mr. Bruce Johnson
Litigation Attorney
Office of Consumer Counsel
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

The Honorable Themis Klarides
State Representative – 114th District
23 East Court
Derby, CT 06418

Charles Walsh
Assistant Attorney General
Attorney General's Office
Juris. No. 402623
55 Elm Street, P.O. Box 120
Hartford, CT 06106

Lawrence J. Golden, Esq.
Pullman & Comley, LLC
90 State House Square
Hartford, CT 06103-3702

Anthony M. MacLeod, Esq.
Whitman, Breed, Abbott & Morgan, LLC
100 Field Point Road
Greenwich, CT 06830

Franco Chieffalo
General Supervisor
First District Water Department
P.O. Box 27
Norwalk, CT 06852

The Honorable Kenneth A. Flatto
First Selectman
Independence Hall
725 Old Post Rd.
Fairfield, CT 06824

David A. Reif
Jane K. Warren
Joel B. Casey
McCarter & English, LLP
CityPlace I
Hartford, CT 06103

Monte E. Frank, Esq.
Cohen & Wolf, P.C.
158 Deer Hill Avenue
Danbury, CT 06810

Andrew W. Lord, Esq.
Murtha Cullina LLP
CityPlace I, 29th Floor
185 Asylum Street
Hartford, CT 06103-3469

Mitchell R. Goldblatt
First Selectman
Town of Orange
617 Orange Center Road
Orange, CT 06477-2499

Robert E. Earley
Connecticut Business & Industry Assoc.
350 Church Street
Hartford, CT 06103-1106

Richard J. Buturla, Esq.
Town Attorney
Berchem, Moses & Devlin, P.C.
75 Broad Street
Milford, CT 06460

Joaquina Borges King
Assistant Town Attorney
Hamden Government Center
2750 Dixwell Avenue
Hamden, CT 06518

Timothy P. Lynch
Deputy City Attorney
City Attorney's Office
245 deKoven Drive, P.O. Box 1300
Middletown, CT 06457-1300

The Honorable Derrylyn Gorski
First Selectwoman
Bethany Town Hall
40 Peck Road
Bethany, CT 06524-3378

William J. Kupinse, Jr.
First Selectman
Easton Town Hall
225 Center Road, P.O. Box 61
Easton, CT 06612

The Honorable William A. Aniskovich
State Senate—12th District
15 Grove Avenue
Branford, CT 06405

David J. Monz
Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C.
One Century Tower
265 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510

David R. Schaefer, Esq.
Brenner Saltzman & Wallman, LLP
271 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511

Senator Joseph J. Crisco, Jr.
17th District
State Capitol
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Honorable Leonard A. Fasano
State Senator – 34th District
7 Sycamore Lane
North Haven, CT 06473

Middletown to Norwalk
345-kV Transmission Project
Supplemental Review of Crossing the West Rock Tunnel
and Rock Cut by Amity Shopping Center

The initial routing analysis of following Route 15 through New Haven County (the Wilbur Cross Parkway) identified several areas where constraints or potential impacts suggested that constructing the proposed Middletown to Norwalk 345-kV Transmission Project along this route would not be practical. At the request of the Connecticut Siting Council, Connecticut Light & Power and United Illuminating (the Companies) had their engineering consultants further review two areas; the West Rock Tunnel and a large rock cut south of the tunnel on Route 15 in the towns of New Haven and Woodbridge. This portion of the route was considered not practical in the initial review because of the steep terrain, adjacent commercial and residential development, the presence of a state park on the ridge that would need to be crossed, and the high visibility of the transmission line in this location. (See Figure 1-Aerial Overview.)

This report describes a potential 345-kV overhead line design through these areas, and a summary of the potential impacts. The areas in question are located between Woodin St. in Hamden and Fountain St. in New Haven. The length of line through both areas is approximately 1.5 miles. Figure 2 identifies the proposed route alignment. Figure 3 is a graphic simulation of the transmission line passing over the ridge looking south. Figure 4 is a graphic simulation looking north. Figure 5 shows the plan and profile for the route. Photos 1-6 illustrate the areas and approximate pole locations.

The potential design solution entails the use of vertical monopoles along the Parkway with the conductor arms facing the roadway. This design configuration is necessary to avoid clearance violations to the homes and businesses along the Parkway. The typical height of these monopoles is 130 feet on a 120-foot wide right of way (ROW). Because the line could use part of the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CDOT) ROW, only approximately 75 feet of clearing is required adjacent to the roadway for this type of construction. Compact delta structures are

proposed to cross West Rock Ridge because they are shorter and would therefore be less visible on the ridge. These structures range from 85 to 130 feet in height. Although shorter, these structures would require a wider ROW of approximately 135 feet. Since the route across the ridge is off of the highway, this portion would require clearing the full 135 feet of ROW. Starting at the south end of the West Rock Tunnel and continuing past the Amity Shopping Center, the structures would be vertical monopoles. The typical height of these monopoles is 150 feet and requires a compressed 80-foot wide ROW, instead of the 120-foot wide standard ROW. This compressed ROW is required to maintain clearances from existing buildings along the highway and at the Amity Shopping Center. The limited available ROW in this area, due to adjacent businesses, requires taller structures to meet design criteria. These structure heights are based on preliminary information and may vary. In addition, heavy angle structures would be required for the two line crossings over the Parkway.

Following is a list of significant features along this stretch of the Parkway:

- a radio tower on West Rock Ridge (see Photo 1)
- the West Rock Ridge State Park
- houses north of the West Rock tunnel (see Photo 2)
- CDOT maintenance yard southeast of the West Rock tunnel (see Photo 3)
- houses southwest of the West Rock tunnel
- the Amity Shopping Center south and west of the West Rock tunnel (see Photo 4)
- houses along the east side of the Parkway, between Fountain St. and Whalley Ave.
- a major rock cut and steep down-slope south of the shopping center (see Photos 5 and 6)

The proposed alignment for the crossing of West Rock Ridge begins by crossing over the Parkway near the north entrance of the tunnel (Photo 1). The line would angle up the ridge through the lowest point ('the saddle'), pass by the microwave tower and descend over the CDOT maintenance yard. The conductors would pass over the maintenance building shown in Photo 3. The line would then cross back over the Parkway through the on/off ramps on the northwest side, and then follow the side entrance to the shopping center (Photo 4). The monopoles would be the vertical configuration to avoid some businesses next to the intersection. From the back of the shopping center, the line would go up to the top of the hill, deviating from the CDOT ROW, and then back down to the highway ROW (see Photos 4-6), a distance of approximately 2,000 feet.

Construction of the line along this portion would require the clearing of approximately 8.8 acres of trees. Most of the tree removals would be within the West Rock Ridge State Park or on private property next to the Parkway south of the shopping center. This alignment would require the acquisition of approximately 7.5 acres of ROW within the West Rock Ridge State Park and the CDOT maintenance yard near the tunnel, as well as approximately 3.0 acres of ROW along the Amity Shopping Center and the adjacent rock cut for a total of 10.5 acres. The line would be highly visible approaching the tunnel from either direction because it would have to cross the Parkway on each side of the tunnel and the need to site structures on both sides of the ridge. The crossing of the ridge would also cross over the park's hiking trail. Construction would be difficult and could result in high impacts for businesses, local residents, and the traveling public. This route would also have impacts on the West Rock Ridge State Park and the CDOT maintenance area.



FIGURE 1 □
□
AERIAL □
OVERVIEW □

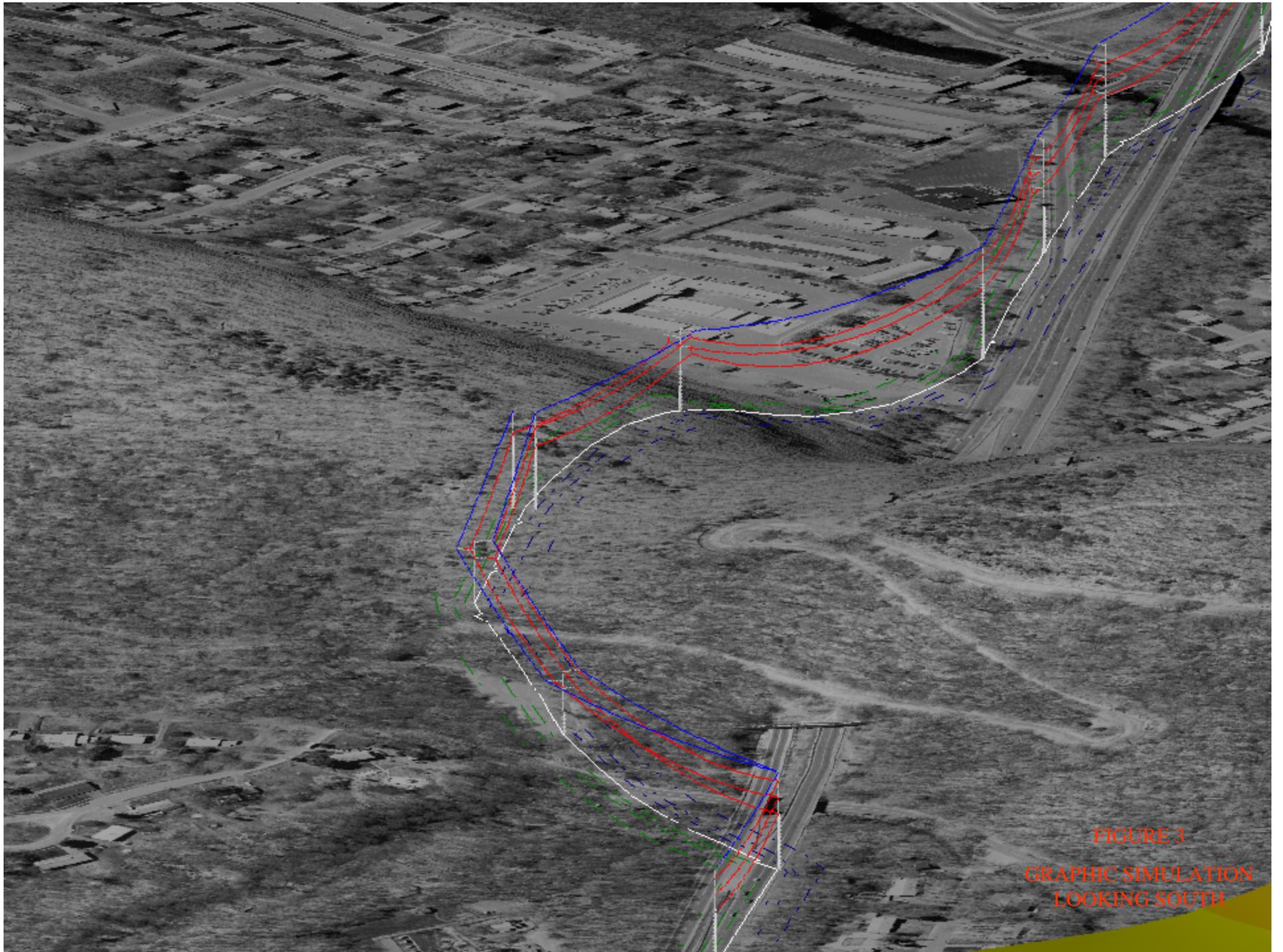


FIGURE 3
GRAPHIC SIMULATION
LOOKING SOUTH

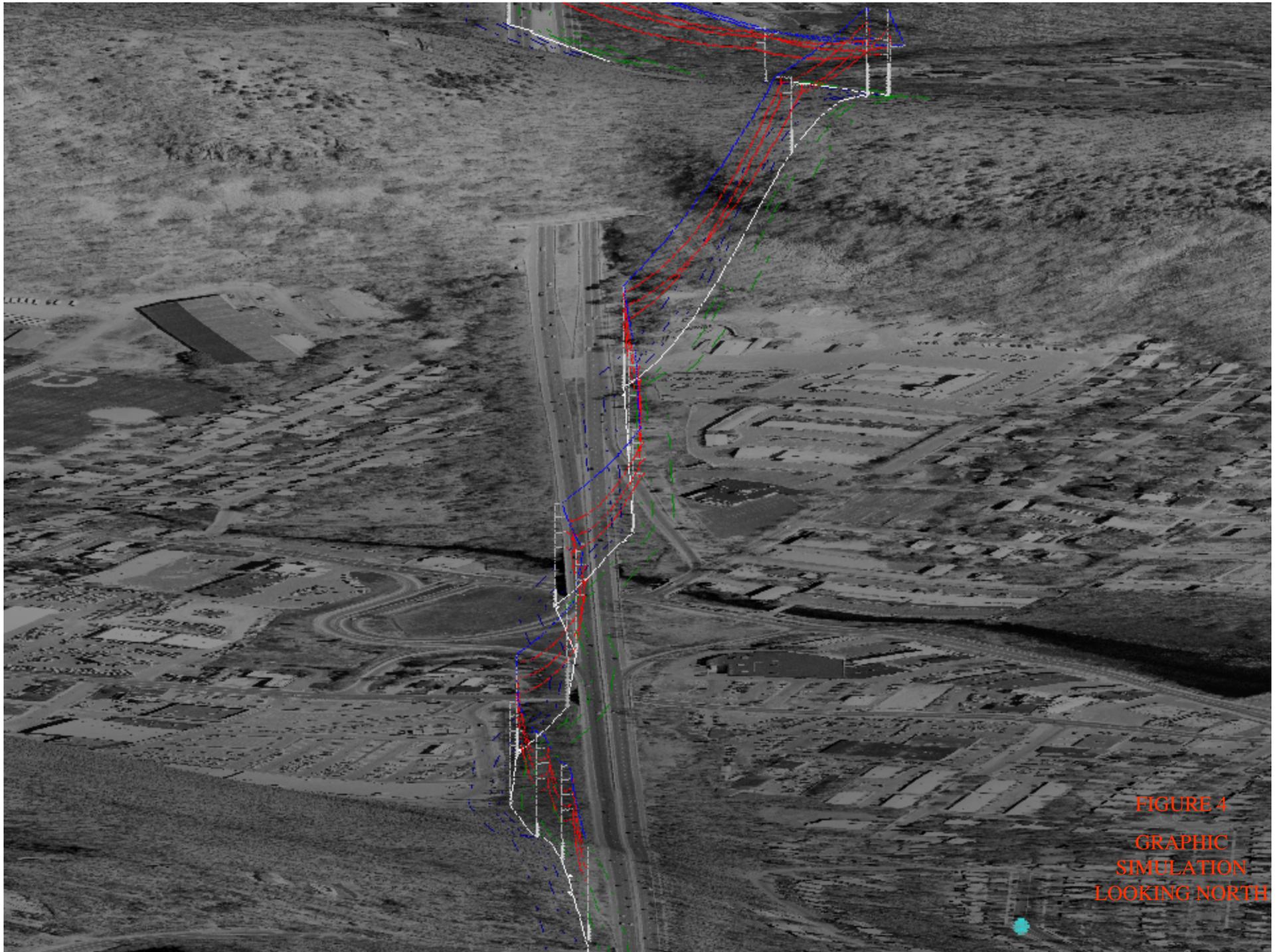


FIGURE 4
GRAPHIC
SIMULATION
LOOKING NORTH

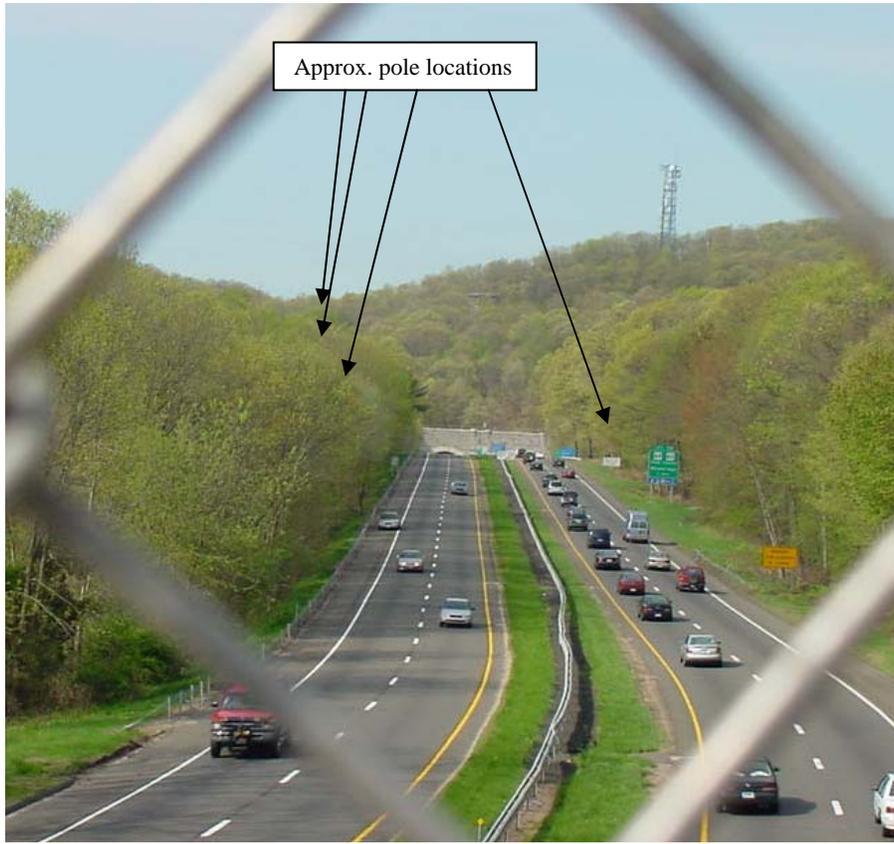


PHOTO 1: Looking south at West Rock Tunnel from Woodin St. overpass (Wilbur Cross Parkway).



PHOTO 2: Homes northwest of West Rock Tunnel.



PHOTO 3: DOT Maintenance Yard south of West Rock Ridge, east side of Parkway.

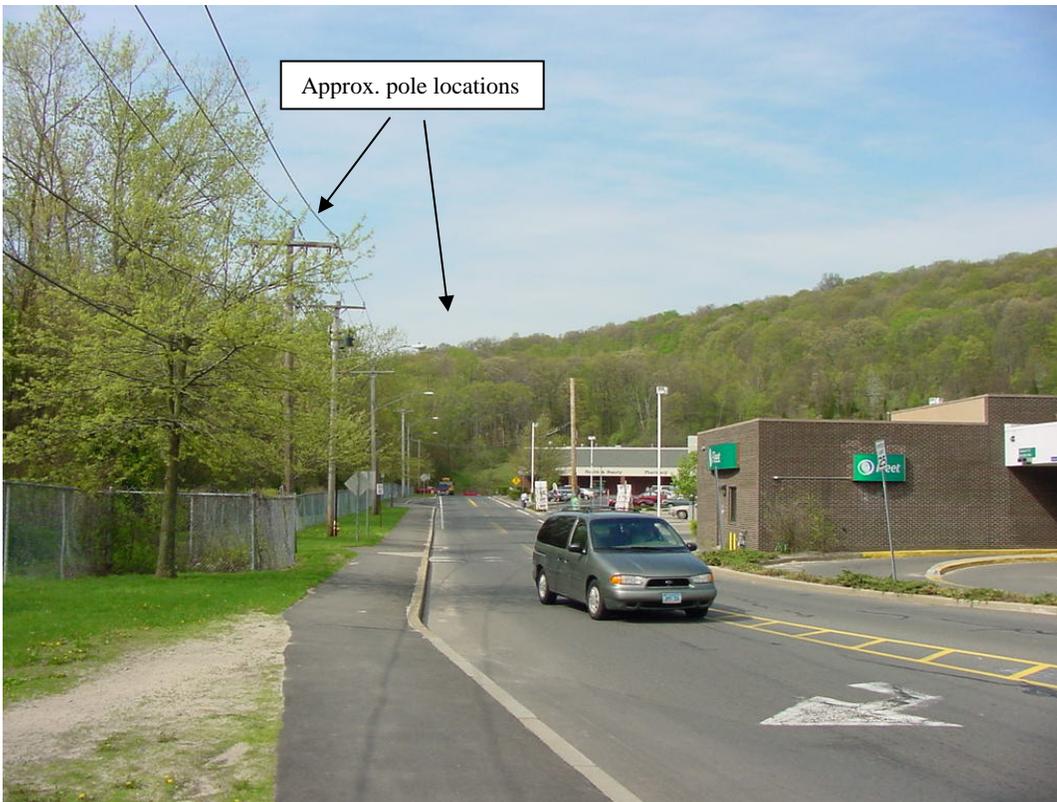


PHOTO 4: Looking south at Amity Shopping Center.



PHOTO 5: Looking south at rock cut along Parkway.



PHOTO 6: Looking north at rock cut along Parkway.